

MACS-24 NEWSLETTER

October/November 2005

Marine Air Control Squadron 24, (817) 782-5207/8

Commanding Officer
Major Javier T. Ramos
Family Readiness

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Individual Highlights

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Commander's Comments

Howdy! I hope this newsletter finds everyone doing well. Our Marines are doing a great job. Things were busy for a while in preparation for the ratification of the constitution. The Marine Corps performed admirably during this period.

Our Marines played a big part in controlling aircraft in support of the referendum. Not only were Marines being transported throughout the area of operations in support of the referendum but also Iraqi election officials were being transported to the numerous polling sites. The number of operations increased significantly during this period and our Marines played a big role in ensuring aircraft were able to safely transit throughout the area of operations. We can expect to do a lot of the same in preparation for the general elections in December. This is a critical time for the Iraqis and our Marines can be proud of their actions and efforts during this period.

I want to congratulate Sergeant Castillo, Corporal Flowers and their families on their recent promotions on 1 October. In addition, LCpl Oppert earned a meritorious combat promotion to Corporal. This was a big day for them to be promoted while deployed and has

made our unit even stronger. I also want to welcome Gunnery Sergeant Phipps and his family to our unit and welcoming them to our family. Gunnery Sergeant Phipps is now the senior Marine at the detachment and is ready to assist when needed.

Our prayers and best wishes go out to our Marines and those of you who had family affected by Hurricane Katrina and Rita. I know some of our families shared their homes with loved ones from Katrina and Rita and I can't say enough about your unselfishness and sacrifices during this deployment and these catastrophic events. If assistance is required, do not hesitate to contact our Key Volunteers and we will get answers for support that is available to service members and families. Sgt Arahill received damage to his home in Louisiana. He has informed me that all is well and his house is being repaired. He and his parents are in good spirits and look forward to his return.

The conditions out here are starting to change. The winds are cooler and the temperatures are starting to drop. The winter is around the corner and we will be wearing warm clothing soon.

Keep this in mind when sending any care packages to your loved ones.

All Marines were able to celebrate the Marine Corps Birthday with cake and good chow. This day always allows Marines, wherever they are, the opportunity to reflect on Marines who have paved the way for us and those we serve with today. Those who attended the Marine Corps Ball I was informed had a great time and as usual, MAG-41 did a great job with the event. Marines in OIF and OEF are doing great things and making a difference in the countries of Iraq and Afghanistan. Marines have selflessly served our country and Corps for two hundred thirty years with commitment, dedication and esprit d'corps. Happy Birthday to our Marines and Marine families.

If you have any questions, please contact the key volunteers and I will get answers for them as soon as possible. Until next month, Godspeed.

Have a safe and festive Thanksgiving

Semper Fidelis,
Major Javier T. Ramos

Key Volunteers

**Dianna Brand
Julie Fergerson
Martha Martinez
Valerie Southern
Buffy Vaughn**

~ Promotions ~

Congratulations to the following Marines on their recent promotions:

**Sgt Richard Castillo
Cpl Michael Flowers
Cpl Dustin Oppert**

Congratulations

Congratulations to **SSgt John Fergerson** on his recent selection for Warrant Officer.

Welcome...

We would like to welcome our newcomers and their family's to the MACS-24 family:

**SSgt Eugene Willette III
Sgt Justino Torres III
Cpl Weldon Johnson
LCpl Katie Gooch
LCpl Theodore Sosnowski
PFC Nathan Stockton**

Farewell...

Leaving the MACS-24 family is one of our Texas members:

SSgt Wayne Kincaide has completed his military service and will be leaving the Marine Corps at the end of this month. His plans are to further his education. We wish you well SSgt Kincaide with all your future endeavors.

**THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR
SELFLESS SERVICE.
YOU WILL BE MISSED**

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

On November 10th, 1775, the Second Continental Congress resolved to raise two battalions of Continental Marines marking the birth of our United States Marine Corps. As Major General Lejeune's message reminds us, the ensuing generations of Marines would come to signify all that is highest in warfighting excellence and military virtue. Each November as Marines the world over celebrate the birth of our Corps, we pay tribute to that long line of "Soldiers of the Sea" and the illustrious legacy they have handed down to us.

The past year has been one of continuous combat operations overseas and distinguished service here at home – year of challenges that have brought out the very best in our Corps. In Iraq and Afghanistan, Marine courage and mastery of complex and chaotic environments have truly made a difference in the lives of millions. Marine compassion and flexibility provided humanitarian assistance to thousands in the wake of the South East Asian Tsunami, and here at home, Marines with AAVs, helicopters, and sometimes with their bare hands saved hundreds of our own fellow Americans in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Across the full spectrum of operations, you have showcased that Marine create stability in an unstable world, and have reinforced our Corps' reputation for setting the standard of excellence.

The sense of honor, courage, and patriotism that epitomized those who answered that first call to arms 230 years ago is still indelibly imprinted on our ranks today. In commemorating our anniversary, let us strengthen our ties to the sacrifices of our wounded and fallen comrades, our commitment to one another remains unshakable. We take special pride in the actions of the Marines now serving in harm's way, and rededicate ourselves to the service of our Nation and our Corps.

Happy Birthday Marines, Semper Fidelis, and Keep Attacking!

**M. W. Hagee
General, U.S. Marine Corps**



Mrs. Fergerson, Mrs. Ford, Mrs. Wheeler, Mrs. Ramos, and Mrs. Martinez showing support for their deployed husbands at the 230th Marine Corps Birthday Ball.



~~ **U. S. MARINE CORPS** ~~



U.S. Marine Corps Reserves believes that **"Every Child deserves a Little Christmas"** and we are asking you to help us send the needy children of our community a message of hope.

The next few months are certainly a frenzy of excitement and LOTS to do. One of the biggest and best events for Marine Corps Reserves is the TOYS FOR TOTS CAMPAIGN. Toys for Tots (T4T) collect toys for needy kids all over the US. Each city runs its own campaign, which is great for us, any toy that is collected in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area stays in this area. Also, if a donation of money is given, the money is spent in a local store, which helps Texas economy, and then given to this community!

Every year the Campaign gets bigger and bigger, and this year the Coordinator for this campaign is asking for our help. Michelle McGimsey, the Civilian Volunteer Coordinator, is looking for a few people that would like to volunteer as the "T4T Volunteer Committee". It is a great cause and your time would be very well spent. If you are interested please let her know.

If you don't have a lot of time to volunteer, you can still help! T4T also needs different groups/organizations that can volunteer on Saturday December 10th and Sunday December 11th during the T4T event. If you or your kids belong to a group that can help (boy Scouts, girl scouts, church group, youth group, wives club etc.), please contact Michelle McGimsey right away. They do not need to work the entire day, just for part of it.

If you do not belong to a group, but you have a child in High School, you can also help. All we need is a few different moms or dads to call high schools in different areas of town to see if any of the "school groups" can help. If you find the group that is willing and available on Dec. 10 or 11, give their names to Michelle and she will do the rest!

Volunteers are needed for:

Toys for Tots Event

December 10-11th, 0800-1800 (2 shifts 8-1 and 1-6)

Duties: Assist the Marines with the collection of toys and donations

Locations:

Town East Mall parking lot (Town East Blvd, at South I-635)
McDonalds 18751 LBJ Freeway parking lot,
Mesquite

Super Wal-Mart, (I-20 and Cooper)
Arlington

Grapevine Mills Parking lot 3A, 3000 Grapevine Mills Parkway,
Grapevine

Super Wal-Mart, 848 Spring Creek Parkway,
Plano

Ridgemar Mall I-30 at Green Oaks Road,
Fort Worth

S. Hulen Super Wal-Mart, 6800 S. Hulen Street
Fort Worth

NW corner Round Grove Road and MacArthur,
Lewisville

For more information and scheduling
Please contact the Civilian Volunteer Coordinator:
Michelle McGimsey at 817-822-1990, dfwtoysfortots@aol.com

Marine Corps Mud Run 2005

MACS-24 Represent at the 7th Annual MAG-41 Mud Run



Cpl Johnson and Sgt Hukill



SSgt Renner enjoying the mud



LCpl Fitzgerald, Sgt Villars, PFC Stockton, and LCpl Smith in the Pitfall



MACS-2 Dispatch

This is the monthly newsletter that will be provided courtesy of MACS-2's forward element in Iraq. Please check out <http://www.2maw.usmc.mil/macg28/macg2/> and then click on MACS-2 newsletter to open the .pdf document. If you have any questions regarding MACS-2, please contact our Family Readiness Office first. If you need further assistance, you can contact the Family Readiness Officer of MACS-2 at (252) 466-4966 or call MACS-2 KV hotline at (252)466-4388 Or (800) 242-0064...Press 5 then 3.

NAS-JRB, FORT WORTH MARINE SPOUSES CLUB

If you are interested in being apart of the Marine Spouses Club, please contact MissyBaker@charter.net.



CELL PHONE DISCOUNTS FOR ACTIVE DUTY

Telecommunications Act of 1996

All Federal Employees are able to get a discount on their personal cell phone by calling their carrier and mentioning the "Federal Telecommunications Act 1996 Discount to Federal Employees Past and Present".

Cingular 19% discount
T-Mobile 22% discount
Sprint 15% discount
Nextel 18% discount
Verizon 23% discount



This is for federal government employees and ACTIVE (only) duty military. Some carriers will also give discounts on phones as well as services. You may have to provide proof of Federal Employment if the discount is not already on your phone service. If anyone would like more information, please send a request to MissyBaker@charter.net.

FOB KALSU MMT

The Marine Air Traffic Control Mobile Team (MMT) positioned at the Forward Operating Base (FOB) Kalsu is lead by Gunnery Sergeant Schaaf. His small team of air traffic controllers and technicians are tasked with the primary mission of sequencing and separating aircraft. The majority of flight operations consist of U.S. Army aircraft. This task provides a challenging and fluid set of requirements for all the Marines on this team. The U.S. Army's capabilities and procedures are different than those of the U.S. Marine Corps. These Army procedures, even some of the most basic operations, require the MMT to learn new military terminology and operating procedures. Despite this dynamic situation the team must ensure that Marine Corps policy and standards hold true regardless of the language and operating differences. The learning curve between Marine Corps and U.S. Army is always a fluid

challenge and requires all of the MMT to stay aggressively engaged to make the mission a success. However, with the MMT's attitude each Marine has cleared these challenges with professionalism. With a Can-Do attitude and their professionalism the MMT at Kalsu has made the Marine Corps' performance in this predominately Army sector, an example to emulate.

The living conditions in this small Army camp are quite nice by Marine Corps standards. The entire team is housed in one 15 man tent which provides ample room for each team member, and all those wonderful care packages they keep getting from there loved ones. The chow hall is one of the nicest chow halls in the area; providing chow 24 hours a day, with four main courses served daily. On Sunday each Marine can look forward to a grand meal of Steak and

Lobsters (surf and turf). Yes, that's right Steak and Lobster in Iraq. No, you can't pick your lobster from the tank, but the preparations of these meals are comparable to most Red Lobster restaurants back in the states. Shower trailers are available 24 hours a day with hot water. While showering is encouraged it is not always mandatory.

The families and friends of the FOB Kalsu MMT can take pride that the Marines you are supporting in this effort are keeping up the high standards and professionalism only displayed by the United States Marine Corps. Semper Fi.

By GySgt Schaaf



TRICARE Management Activity

News Release

**TRICARE Reserve Family Demonstration
Benefit Extended through Oct. 31, 2007**

**November 2, 2005
No. 05-41**

FALLS CHURCH, Va.—The TRICARE Reserve Family Demonstration Benefit due to end Oct. 31, 2005, has been extended through Oct. 31, 2007. The Department of Defense extended the benefit for an additional two years to ensure continuity of care for family members of approximately 170,000 National Guard and Reserve members called to active duty for more than 30 days in support of Operation Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The demonstration waives the TRICARE annual deductible for family members who use TRICARE Extra or Standard; waives the pre-authorization requirement for non-emergency inpatient civilian care at civilian hospitals; and authorizes TRICARE to pay non-participating providers up to 115 percent of the TRICARE maximum allowable charge.

"The demonstration makes it less expensive for these family members to continue seeing their usual doctors if they take TRICARE," said Steve Lillie, deputy chief, TRICARE Operations. "The demonstration does not apply to families who enroll in TRICARE Prime since there are no deductibles or cost shares for referred care in TRICARE Prime," Lillie said.

National Guard and Reserve members and family members with questions or in need of assistance may use the TRICARE Yellow Pages available at www.tricare.osd.mil/yellowpages to contact their TRICARE regional contractor. Up-to-date TRICARE information is also available on the TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve.

In Association With the Department of Defense, A Group of NFL, AFL, and CFL Football Players Sponsor Several Million Dollars Worth of SAT/ACT Training to All Families in the Armed Forces.

Los Angeles California, Oct ____ , 2005 In association with The Department of Defense (DoD), eKnowledge LLC announces that a group of NFL, NFL Europe, AFL and CFL football players all represented through the Victory Sports Group Agency, has sponsored several million dollars worth of \$199 SAT and ACT test prep programs to every family in the U.S. Military (all branches—active or retired) for the school year 2005-2006. Specifically, the sponsorship allows any military person (active or retired) to request as many programs as they need for the students in their lives—for example a military uncle can use his military status to order a program(s) for the students in his extended family back home—any military person can order a program to help any student in his or her life. To have access to the sponsorship the person placing the order must be military (active or retired). The Department of Defense has created a secure website to quickly confirm a person's military status. Personnel can access the confirmation and order pages through several military related associations and organizations, including: The Department of Defense MilitaryStudent.org and Military HOMEFRONT websites for families, The Military Child Education Collation, The Military Impacted Schools' Association, and The National Military Families

Association all have access to confirm military status and process the order. Programs ship to domestic U.S. addresses and APO addresses. The sponsorship covers the regular purchase price of \$199 and the family pays only the S&H. The programs have a one-year license and are intended for the sole individual use of students on their personal home or laptop computer and are not intended for group or classroom instruction through the schools. Requests to receive the sponsored program can be placed now on the website or over the phone.

About Victory Sports Group

The Victory Sports Group represents NFL, NFL Europe, AFL, and CFL football players. It is the sports agency section of the Enslen, Pinkston and Courtney, LLP law firm—an international, full-service sports agency/firm. Some of the football players that have contributed to this effort are: Ahmaad Galloway, Scott Young, Garrick Jones, Corey Williams, Jon Bradley, Jason Radar, Dominique Dunbar, Bradly Chavez, Kelly Johnson, Elgin Hicks, Kevin Breedlove, Tim Blackwell.

About eKnowledge LLC

eKnowledge LLC provides online and CD-ROM e-learning products and services. The company specializes in the custom design of interactive programs utilizing rich media.

About The SAT/ACT Power

Prep CD-ROM Programs

The SAT/ACT test prep training programs each have two CD-ROMs, that includes more than ten (10) hours of training video and require approximately 40 hours of student participation—it can be used as a stand-alone complete course or as a supplement to other SAT/ACT prep materials. The students select the training they most need and can study at their own pace by picking which of the 120 video lessons they want to view. The program also provides progress tracking and much more.

To view a flyer that has been made to assist in the effort, please go to: http://www.sat.eknowledge.com/information/00_SATAC_T_Flyer2Parents_Armed_Forces_v3.pdf

How Military Families Request The \$199 Programs

A military person visits one of the websites to confirm their military status through the secure Department of Defense main Database. That website will then forward the person to the sponsorship order page where they can request the programs. The sponsorship will cover the \$199.99 cost for the program. The families pay only the s/h of \$9.95.

Questions: Please contact: Brandon Chatham - bchatham@eknowledge.com # - 951-256-4076 ###

Upcoming Events

MAG-41 KVN Mtg. for November is cancelled due to Marine Corps Birthday Ball

MACS-24 KVN Mtg. for November is cancelled.

Nov. 5th – The 230th Marine Corps Birthday Ball at the Hyatt Regency East at Dallas/Fort Worth Airport

Dec. 2nd – MACS-24 KVN Mtg. Location and time TBD.

Dec. 10-11th – Toys for Tots toy drive

Dec. 11th – MAG-41 KVN Meeting - Meeting will be held in the MAG conference room at 1pm.

Postal Service Suggests Deadlines for Holiday Mailing

Packages sent parcel post: deadline to send is **Nov. 12**

Space-available mail: **Nov. 26**

Parcel airlift: **Dec. 3**

Priority mail, first-class cards and letters: **Dec. 10**

APO addresses beginning with 093: **Dec. 5**

Express mail: **Dec. 19**
Local post offices can determine which APO/FPO addresses can receive express mail

For more information, please visit <http://www.defenselink.mil/releases/2005/nr20051031-5021.html>



*Please Keep Our Service
Members and our Nation
In Your Prayers...*

MACS-24 ATC DET A

4th Marine Aircraft Wing
Group
Bldg 4243
NAS, JRB
Fort Worth, TX 76127-5000

Phone

(817) 782-7641

Fax

(817) 782-7541

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Questions
concerning Tri-Care South
1-800-444-5445

Questions
concerning Tri-Care North
1-877-TRICARE (274-2273)

*This schedule does not
include deployment.*

The Newsletter Distribution

The newsletter will be distributed to via email or regular mail to members of MACS-24 DET A Marines and designated family members. If you are a member of MACS-24 DET A and would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please ensure that the Admin Shop has your correct email address on

record. If the recipient is not a member of MACS-24, please email Rebecca Ramos at jbramos12@sbcglobal.net or Felicia D. Wheeler at fdwheeler@sbcglobal.net to set up their subscription. Please be sure to list the recipient's name, correct

email address, and connection to military member.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Helpful Hints

MAG-41:

<http://www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thmaw/mag41>

MCCS ONE SOURCE:

www.mccsonesource.com

(User ID: **marines** password: **semperfi**)

MARINE CORPS WIVES:

<http://www.marinewives.com>

MARINE MOMS ONLINE:

<http://marinemomsonline.virtualave.net>

MARINE MOMS & DADS:

<http://marinemoms.us/soldiersangels.com>

MARINE CORPS GIFTS:

<http://www.creationenfaience.com/>

Dallas / Fort Worth, Texas Area

MCAS-24 DET A Operations (817-782-7461)

MAG-41, JRB FW (Duty on call 24 hrs)

817-782-7402 or 1-800-632-5026

MACS Chaplain (Contact MAG-41)

American Red Cross

817-336-8718 or 214-678-4800

or Toll Free # 1-877-272-7238

Family Services Center 817-782-5287



East Coast DAWG Unit

American Red Cross -- (215) 348-8161

Chaplain (main number) -- (215) 443-6002

Family Services -- (215) 443-6033

Navy Relief -- (215) 443-6024

Officer of the Day (if ever needed) -- (215) 443-6454

Triage (local) -- (215) 443-6351

Info for ID Cards -- (215) 443-6863

Legal -- (215) 443-6056

FISCAL YEAR 2006 DRILL SCHEDULE

October 14th – 17th

November 4th – 5th

December 10th – 11th

January 20th – 22nd

February 25th – 26th

March 17th – 19th

April 3rd – 16th

May 20th – 21st

June 16th – 18th

July 22nd – 23rd

August 19th – 20th

September 15th – 17th